

The French King's Declaration of WAR against the Crown of Spain.

Translated out of French.

Ordonnance of the King.

THE sincere desire which the King hath had to maintain the Truce concluded in the Year 1684. induced His Majesty to dissemble the Conduct of the Ministers of *Spain* in the Courts of all the Princes of *Europe*, where they laboured nothing more than to excite them to take up Arms against *France*. His Majesty was not ignorant, how far they were concerned in the Negotiation of the League of *Ausbourg*; and was likewise informed of the part the Governor of the Spanish *Low-Countries* had, in the Prince of *Orange's* Enterprize against *England*; but not being able to believe, that he acted therein by the Order of the King his Master, who was obliged by so many Reasons of Religion, of Blood, and the Safety of all Kings, to oppose such an Usurpation, His Majesty had hoped, He should have been able to induce the *Catholick King* to joyn with him for the Re-establishment of the lawful King of *England*, and the Preservation of the *Catholick Religion* against the Union of the *Protestant Princes*; or at least, if the state of Affairs in *Spain* did not permit his *Catholick Majesty* to enter into the like Engagements, to observe an exact Neutrality; to which end, His Majesty hath, since the Month of *November* last past, caused several Proposals to be made to him, which were well received, whilst the Success of the Prince of *Orange's* Enterprize seemed doubtful, but these favourable Dispositions disappeared so soon as it was known at *Madrid*, that the King of *England* had left his Kingdom, and nothing was then there talk'd of but a War against *France*. His Majesty understood at the same time, that the Spanish Ambassador was daily with the Prince of *Orange*, and solicited him to have the English declare War against *France*: That the Governor of the Spanish *Low-Countries* raised Troops with great diligence; that he promised the States-General to joyn them with their Forces at the beginning of the Campaign, and solicited them, as well as the Prince of *Orange*, to send Forces to *Flanders*, in order to put those Countries into a posture to make War upon *France*. All these Advices made His Majesty think, he ought in prudence to know, what he was to depend upon. He therefore gave Order to the Marquis de *Rebenac*, his Ambassador at *Madrid*, to demand of the Ministers of the *Catholick King* a positive Answer, offering him the Continuance of the Truce, upon condition, He would oblige himself to observe an exact Neutrality, and not to assist directly or indirectly His Majesty's Enemies; but the Evil Councils having prevailed, His Majesty was informed, That the Resolution was taken, to favour the Usurper of *England*, and to joyn with the *Protestant Princes*. His Majesty understood likewise, almost at the same time, That the Prince of *Orange's* Agents had received considerable Sums of Money at *Cadiz* and *Madrid*; that the Troops of *Holland* and *Brandenburg* were entred into the Principal Places of the *Spaniards* in *Flanders*; and that the Governor of the *Low-Countries* for the King of *Spain*, did sollicite the States-General to cause their Forces to advance to *Brussels*: All these Advices added to the Answer, which the Marquis de *Rebenac* received at *Madrid*, leaving His Majesty no room to doubt, That the Intention of the *Catholick King* is to joyn with his Enemies; His Majesty hath thought, He ought to lose no time to prevent his Evil Designs; and hath resolved to declare War against him, as well by Sea as Land, as He doth by these Presents. His Majesty, for this effect, Commands and Enjoyns all His Subjects, Vassals and Servants, to fall upon the *Spaniards*, and hath expressly forbidden, and doth forbid, their having henceforward any Communication, Commerce or Intelligence with them, upon pain of Death. And to this end, His Majesty does revoke all Permissions, Passports, Safe-guards, and Safe-conducts, that may have been granted by himself, or his Lieutenant-Generals, and other his Officers, contrary to these Presents, and hath declared, and does declare them to be Null, and of no effect and force, forbidding all persons whatsoever to have any regard thereunto. His Majesty Orders and Commands the Lord-Admiral, Marshals of *France*, Governors and Lieutenant-Generals for His Majesty in his Provinces and Armies, Marshals de Camp, Colonels, Captains and Commanders of his Forces, as well Horse as Foot French and Foreigners, and all other his Officers to whom it shall appertain, to cause the Contents of these Presents to be put in Execution within the Extent of their respective Powers and Jurisdictions: For such is His Majesty's Pleasure. He Wills also, and Enjoyns, That these Presents be Published and affixed in all the Towns, as well Maritime as others, and in all the Ports, Harbors, and other Places of his Kingdom and the Territories under his Obedience, where it shall be needful; to the end, none may pretend cause of Ignorance. Given at Versailles the 15th. Day of April, 1689.

Signed *Louis*, and underneath *La Tiller*.